CHAPTER IX

EXECUTIVE POWER[1]

THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

THE Philippine Commonwealth and the Philippine Republic will have a strong executive. And this is wise for more than one reason.

The Filipino people have become accustomed to centralized leadership. The local chieftains in ancient times, the Spanish Viceroys in past centuries, the Commanding Generals during the Philippine Revolutions, and the American Governors-General in recent days, each represented the focus of power, the one man to be obeyed and to look to for redress of grievances. By reason of such experience, the psychology of the masses reacts more favorably to a government dominated by one person than to more democratic direction. But this does not mean that the people are content to follow any leader blindly. It is only when the national leader enjoys the confidence of the people that he obtains their hearty support.

Not only this. A firm hand is needed to suppress possible regional, mass, or national discontent. A firm hand is also needed to guide a new Commonwealth and Republic, Latin and American trained but located in the Orient in close contact with Chinafied and Japanized countries.

Every consideration calls for a strong Chief Executive, but not for a dictatorship.

Executive power is entrusted to one official,

the President. He is elected by popular vote to serve for a term of six years.

[1] The first four sections of this chapter were read by Senator Teofilo Sison, Secretary of the Interior.